Start of Miki Gisela Denhof Collection

AR 11688

Sys #: 000354530

LEO BAECK INSTITUTE
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AR 11688 1/1 Miki Gisela Denhof Collection 1984-2000 Archives

AHC 805

THE AUSTRIAN HERITAGE COLLECTION AT THE LEO BAECK INSTITUTE
AUSTRIAN-JEWISH IMMIGRANTS IN THE USA

LEO BAECK INSTITUTE: 129 E 73 STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10021, TEL (212) 744 6400

Name: MIKI (First Name) GISELA (Middle Name) DENHOF (Last Name)

Address: [redacted]

Phone: [redacted] **Last Occupation:** ART DIRECTOR

Date of Birth: 1. (Month) 1. (Day) 1912 (Year) **Place of Birth:** TRIESTE (City) ITALY (Country)

Address before 1938: KAISERSTRASSE 62 (Street) VII (District in Vienna) VIENNA (City) AUSTRIA (Country)

Prewar Name: SAME AS ABOVE **Maiden Name:** BARDACH

1. Education/Occupation(s) (if possible, indicate institutions and year when entered/left)

LYCEUM DER BEAMPTENTÖCHTER
GRET KALOUS (ART SCHOOL)
REIMAN SCHOOL OF ART, BERLIN

2. Were you affiliated with any kind of organization? (Youth, Zionist, Political or any other organizations) If so, did you have any specific function?

NO

3. Were you arrested and/or interned? (please indicate where and when)

NO

4. What was your route of emigration? (please indicate places and dates of stay)

OVER →

5. May we contact you again with a more detailed follow-up questionnaire? Yes / No

6. Do you have any documents that would be appropriate for the archives of the Leo Baeck Institute? (personal documents, photographs, letters, all kinds of manuscripts, diaries, memoirs, etc.) Yes / No

If necessary please use additional sheets. Thank you!

the papers of my father, Oberstabsarzt
DR. BERNHARD BARDACH
are with the Leo Baeck Institute, consisting of his First World War diaries, photoalbums and correspondence. I have additional material that I will also deposit with the Leo Baeck Institute

Sincerely
Miki Denhof 11/28/98

Miki Gisela Denhof Collection (AHC 805)

All items are copies:

1. Short biography in German
2. Photograph of Miki Denhof

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What I find so interesting is to be confronted each month with fifty-five empty pages

MIKI DENHOF

Grafikerin, Art Director

Geboren am 1. Januar 1912 in Triest, wo ihr Vater Bernard Bardach als Militärarzt stationiert war. Seit 1914 in Wien, Besuch des Gymnasiums und privater Kunstschulen in Wien und 1928 in Berlin. Vor dem "Anschluß" Arbeit als Grafikerin in einem Modezeitschriften-Verlag. 1938 flüchtete sie in die USA, wo bereits ihre Schwester lebte. In New York begann sie ab 1940 als Assistentin beim Magazin "Esquire" und arbeitete in zwei Werbeagenturen. 1945 wurde sie Werbeleiterin von Condé Nast Publications und betreute mehrere Magazine des Verlags. Werbekampagnen für "Vogue". Von 1955 an Art Editor (ab 1960 Art Director) der Zeitschrift "Glamour", für die sie mit Herausgeberin Kathleen Aston ein modernes Konzept und Layout entwickelte und für die sie Fotografen wie Diane und Alan Arbus und Illustratoren wie Paul Rand und Robert Blechman gewann. Sie gilt als Wegbereiterin einer neuen, realitätsnahen Modefotografie. 1970 verlegte sie ihren Schwerpunkt auf Wohnkultur, Mitherausgeberin des Magazins "House & Garden". Design von Broschüren, Plakaten und Werbematerial für die amerikanische Marine, Buchgestaltung für die Verlage Simon and Schuster, Rinehart & Winston und Viking Press. 1978 Retrospektive in der Guild Hall, East Hampton, N.Y. Miki Denhof ist Trägerin des American Graphic Art Society Award und lebt in New York.

Abbildung: 1932

Miki Denhof

1912-2000

Miki Denhof, one of the most esteemed, influential women in the magazine and book design industry, died peacefully in her East Hampton home on August 08 after a courageous two-year battle with ovarian cancer. She was eight-eight.

Ms. Denhof's seminal career as a graphic designer, editor, and one of the magazine industry's first women art directors spanned five post-war decades that are considered halcyon years in American publishing. For thirty-eight of those years, she was a creative force and arbiter of quality at Conde Nast where she set the standards and style for the marketing of all its magazines and became art director of House & Garden and Glamour. Considering her numerous achievements during the 1950's and 1960's, art and photo historian Martin Harrison points out that Ms. Denhof used the groundbreaking work of many young American and European-emigre photographers in Glamour, opening the door for David Bailey, Frank Horvat, Jeanloup Sieff, Penati, Louis Faurer, Bob Richardson, and Saul Leiter. He comments, "Her layout and typography evolved along with the sixties zeitgeist, accurately mirroring the rapid changes in culture and society." Bailey, a great admirer of her work says, " She was the only art director I wouldn't question. She could put twenty-two pictures on a spread and I wouldn't worry. She'd always do it right."

Ms Denhof also became the art director of Conde Nast Books, working on such titles as "Vanity Fair: Photographs of an Age 1914-1936" with Diane Edkins, "Wise Women: Singular Lives that Helped Shape Our Century" with William Rayner, and "The Successful Face" with Amy Greene. Former editor-in-chief of House & Garden, Mary Jane Pool, describes Ms. Denhof's book designs as "elegant and serene." The two women collaborated on "20th-Century Decorating, Architecture and Gardens: 80 Years of Ideas and Pleasure from House & Garden" and, more recently, "The Gardens of Venice" and "The Gardens of Florence."

Hired by Alexander Lieberman in 1945 to be promoted art director at Vogue, Ms. Denhof became his trusted, longstanding colleague. In later years she developed equally strong ties to the chairman of Conde Nast Publications, S.I. Newhouse, who says of her, " She exposed me to craft and art of Magazines...a great friend and significant influence on my life."

In addition to her creative career, Ms. Denhof will be remembered for her life-long commitment to the artistry of friendship. Her extended family of friends in the worlds of art, photography, magazines, and books are legion and legendary. Celebrated photographer and her Hamptons neighbor, Elliot Erwitt recalls, "the gentle 'old world' civility of our occasional afternoon teas at her perfect house and her charming accented high-pitched voice with the Austrian residue...She is that rare sort of person who always radiated good judgement, taste, culture and refinement with her person and in her work." Similarly, George Hartman, an associate art director at Glamour, remembers Ms. Denhof for her "sharp eye and sharper wit." He adds, "Though I was raised on Sinatra and she on Mahler, we shared a love of music, books, theatre, art and good movies." Denise Otis, who worked with Ms. Denhof at House & Garden, says in admiration, "You could always count on Miki. No fuss, no drama, just commitment."

Miki Denhof was born in Trieste, Italy, raised in Austria, and educated in Vienna and Berlin. She was part of the exodus from Germany in 1938, arriving with her parents and her sisters in New York. One of her first jobs in the 1940's was working with world renowned designer Paul Rand at Esquire and Apparel Arts.

After leaving Conde Nast in 1977, Ms. Denhof worked independently as a designer. She is identified with a body of work benefiting Guild Hall, a cultural center in East Hampton. For Guild Hall she produced exhibitions, catalogs, and a documentary book, "Guild Hall, An Adventure in the Arts." In addition, Guild Hall honored her with an exhibition of her own editorial and graphic design work from 1943 to 1978. She was also commissioned by Estelle Ellis, the president of Business profiling people and companies that "make a difference" in the fashion industry. Her conceptual approach to their design helped make them collector's items. "Miki brought resolution to the most complex artistic project," Ellis remembers, "She made judgements without being judgmental, gave opinions without opinionated, lived a life that was as full, generous, and creative as her career."

In the last years of her life, Ms. Denhof found joy and fulfillment in archiving the World War I photo albums and diaries of her father, Bernhard Bardach, a doctor in the Austrian-Hungarian army. She donated the collection of six written volumes and 900 photographs to the Leo Baeck Institute in New York, and her father's photographs were included in the Institute's 1999 exhibition "Fighting for the Fatherland: The Patriotism of Jews in World War I," which documented the Jewish contribution to the nation's war effort. Ms. Denhof was in the midst of translating her father's journals when she died.

Reflecting on Miki Denhof's unique life, Don Wise, her friend for over fifty years said, "Her insistence on intellectual curiosity and artistic integrity became and continues to be a part of my own work ethic. Whenever Miki wanted anything done, she would always say, 'Be an angel.' And now she is one."

A funeral service for Miki Denhof will be held on Wednesday, August 9 at 11:30 a.m. in the Frank E. Campbell Funeral Chapel, 1076 Madison Avenue. In lieu of flowers donations are requested for The Leo Baeck Institute at the Center for Jewish History, 15 W. 16 St., New York, New York 10011.

Speakers

Estelle Ellis

Carla Weisberg

George Hartman

Phyllis Broff

William Rayner

Mary Jane Poole

Amy Greene Andrews

cover Miki with Alex Lieberman

From: E Steele Ellis

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End of Miki Gisela Denhof Collection